Who Can Use Talking Books?
Who Do We Serve?

- Blind
- Blind-Deaf
- Visually Impaired
- Physically Disabled
- Print Disabled
What Are Talking Books?
Talking Book Services

- Digital Audio Books
- Downloadable Books (BARD)
- Braille Books & Magazines
- Large Print Direct
Free Matter for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

From the USPS website:

Q: Who is eligible to mail items free of postage due to a physical impairment?

A: Persons who are blind or cannot read or use conventionally printed matter due to a physical impairment...as follows:

- Blind persons that fit one of the following criteria:
  a. Visual acuity, as determined by competent authority, is 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses, or
  b. Widest diameter of visual field subtends angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.
  c. Other persons with physical impairments certified by a competent authority as meeting one or more of the following conditions:
- Having a visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, that prevents the reading of standard printed material.

- Being unable to read or to use standard printed material because of physical limitations.

- Having a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction that is severe enough to prevent their reading printed material in a normal manner.

- Meeting the requirements of eligibility resulting from a degenerative, variable disease that renders them unable to read or use conventional printed material because of impaired eyesight or other physical factors.

These persons are eligible during the time in which they are certified by a competent authority as unable to read or use conventional materials.

- PERSONS MUST BE:
  a. Residents of the United States, including its territories, insular possessions, and the District of Columbia, OR
  b. American citizens domiciled abroad.
Books for All Ages

✓ Popular Series
✓ Fiction and Non-fiction
✓ Entire series available on one cartridge
Children’s Books

✓ MLC has a small children’s print collection along with twin vision books
✓ Digital books from easy readers to young adult
✓ Braille children’s books are available
Outreach for Adults

- Available to present for Rotary, Lion’s, & other service clubs
- Outreach elsewhere (health fairs, staff training days, other conferences)
Outreach for Children

- Schools
  - Available for school outreach
  - Braille book & alphabet demos
  - Audiobooks & player demos

- Public Libraries
  - Summer Programs
Sensory Story Kits

- Available for checkout

- Includes:
  - Books with both braille & print
  - Tactile materials

- Contact for checkout:
  - Mary Rodgers Beal
  - mrbeal@mlc.lib.ms.us
Project Ideas

1. Create a Talking Book Services display with a demo player
2. Have me come speak about TBS to patrons for a program
3. Conduct outreach with nursing homes in your area to teach them about TBS & how it works
Mary Rodgers Beal
Talking Book Services Director

Office: (601) 432-4116
mrbeal@mlc.lib.ms.us

Thank you!

Scout says “thanks” too!